

## Dudley Ag Commission Meeting Minutes

September 5, 2019

Call to Order: Victor Kallgren Chairman

Pledge of Allegiance

Acceptance of August 1<sup>st</sup> meeting minutes

John La Fleche, Superintendent of Bay Path School was our guest speaker along with Mr. Montville, Bay Path's Vocational Coordinator. They gave us an overview of their vocational program. They have approval for a new animal science program for a veterinary assistant. A teaching hospital will be located in the area. The facility will be renovated by Bay Path students. At this time, they are looking for properties. Selectman Paul Joseph suggested the old Smart Plaza in Dudley. Bay Path also has a building and property and maintenance group of students.

Our immediate concern is if students could work with local farmers. This is an option, according to Mr. La Fleche. Students need to be guaranteed 30 hours a week of work at minimum wage. The employer must have workman's comp insurance. It is also a possibility that the student could work for several farmers in the same work week. Selectman Paul Joseph suggested trying to get a donor who would be willing to provide the workman's comp insurance. John La Fleche recommended that we send him a packet detailing what is needed from the cooperating farmers. The hiring process takes 2-3 weeks. Our goal is to get help for local farmers and spark an interest in agriculture in young people who may be interested in becoming farmers themselves.

Our next guests were Jennifer Cournoyer, chairman of the Board of Health and Tom Purcell, Health Inspector. Jennifer noted that the animal inspector does need to visit our farms to inspect any animals on the premises. There is a fee, it will be waived for the first year. There have been concerns about residents with properties less than five acres who have animals and are affected by the Board of Health's proposed regulations of animals. The board is still assessing this. Jennifer

stated that people could apply for a variance and go through that process. The Zoning Commission is responsible for some of the regulations for properties less than 5 acres. Jennifer suggested reaching out to Zoning to suggest changing some of these restrictions.

Selectman Paul Joseph asked Jennifer about waiving of the permit fee for Dudley farmers setting up as vendors the day of the Dudley Farm Dayz event on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Jennifer stated that the Ag Commission will need to submit an official request to add this to the agenda for the next Board of Health meeting.

Tom Purcell gave an overview of his role as Health Inspector. He explained the regulations for selling farm products at farmers market, fairs and festivals (Please refer to separate attachment of Dudley Farmers Market Guidelines).

Logo for Ag Commission: Linda passed out examples of her suggestions for our logo. We will vote on this at our next meeting.

Right to farm signs: Discuss at next meeting.

Dudley Farm Dayz:

The Grange has offered space for our group behind their building in case we need it.

We need to ask about a revolving fund account to carry over funds from year to year.

Five vendors have signed up so far.

Our activities will be a hay ride, hay maize for kids, creating fairy gardens, pumpkin painting, pumpkin carving demonstration and a seed swap.

Meeting was adjourned.

